

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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P R 240930Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5445
USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMCONSUL TANGIER POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CASABLANCA 0559

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BTRA, MO
SUBJ: MAY 78 VISIT OF MOROCCAN TRADE DELEGATION TO U.S.

REF: (A) STATE 98097 (B) USDOC 6867

1. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF REFTELS CONGEN UNDERTOOK TO PERSUADE CASABLANCA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DIRECTOR ELYANBOUAI TO POSTPONE MISSION, POINTING OUT DIFFICULTY ARAB-AMERICAN CHAMBER HAS WITH MAY DATES, AND PREFERENCE OF EMBASSY OF MOROCCO FOR LATER VISIT. ELYANBOUAI RESTATED MOROCCAN DESIRE (MOST RECENTLY POINTED OUT IN CASABLANCA 392 AND 512) TO MAKE SEPARATE MISSION THEIR MAIN THRUST. HE SHOWED US LETTER FROM MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON STATING AMBASSADOR WOULD MEET WITH MISSION, AND IN CONCLUSION SAID THAT TO POSTPONE THIS VISIT AGAIN (IT WAS POSTPONED LAST DECEMBER WHEN THE KING PUT OFF HIS TRIP TO THE U.S.) WOULD BE TO CANCEL IT ALTOGETHER, WHICH MOROCCANS CLEARLY DO NOT WANT TO DO. IN SUM, MOROCCANS PREFER TO STICK WITH MAY DATES EVEN IF ASSISTANCE WHICH USDOC AND OTHER CAN RENDER IS MINIMAL.

2. WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WASHINGTON APPEAR TO
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BE RESPONSIVE TO THIS MISSION AND THAT APPROPRIATE WASHINGTON AGENCIES UNDERTAKE A WELCOME ON THURSDAY, MAY 18, THE DATE THE GROUP WILL BE IN WASHINGTON. IN RECENT TIMES WE HAVE HAD DIFFICULTY IN RESPONDING TO MOROCCAN REQUESTS IN OTHER DOMAINS, A FACTOR LENDING COGENCY TO THIS REQUEST. WHILE WE WELL UNDERSTAND THE INTERPRETATION OF WHAT MAY QUALIFY FOR USDOC ASSISTANCE (PARA

1 REF A), WE WOULD POINT OUT THAT MANY MEMBERS OF MISSION ARE IMPORTERS AS WELL AS EXPORTERS SO MISSION LIKELY TO HAVE LONG RUN BENEFICIAL EFFECTS ON US EXPORTS TO MOROCCO; AND MISSION IS EQUALLY INTERESTED IN ENCOURAGING US INVESTMENT IN MORROCO.

3. IT WORTH NOTING THAT MOROCCAN AUTHORITIES HAVE RENDERED SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE TO US WHEN USDOC SENDS TRADE PROMOTION EVENTS OUR WAY. FOR EXAMPLE, NOTWITHSTANDING THE 10 TO 1 BILATERAL TRADE DEFICIT IN OUR FAVOR, THE GOM CO-SPONSORED THE MARCH 1978 MINING EQUIPMENT SEMINAR MISSION HELD IN RABAT, AND HAS RECENTLY AGREED TO CO-SPONSOR THE DECEMBER 1978 TELE-COMMUNICATIONS MISSION. CASABLANCA CHAMBER (INCLUDING SEVERAL OF PARTICIPANTS OF PROJECTED MOROCCAN MISSION) HOSTED SEMINAR FOR RECENT BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT TRADE MISSION IN CASABLANCA. THE BUSINESS COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING HAS EXPRESSED IT WILLINGNESS TO FILL OUT GAPS IN THE PROGRAM OF THE MISSION IN NEW YORK AND CHICAGO, SO ALL THAT IS INVOLVED IS THE ONE DAY IN WASHINGTON, PART OF WHICH WILL BE TAKEN UP WITH VISIT TO MOROCCAN EMBASSY.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST FOR USDOC SPONSORSHIP AND APPROPRIATE WELCOME ON THURSDAY, MAY 18 IN WASHINGTON. MONJO

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